



# SBARA GROUNDPLANE

Volume 16, Issue 2

February, 2016

Wow! What happened to January? Poof! It's already over. It's been a busy month on many different fronts...many ham radio related.

First off...I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all members to PLEASE send in your SBARA Membership dues as soon as possible. We are a bit behind in receiving renewals. I know we got the renewal packets out a bit late, but we'd appreciate you renewing your membership soon! As those of you regular SBARA meeting attendees well know, it has been an ongoing joke about me going for my extra class license. No pressure. Well...last month I finally got some traction toward that goal. A few events were a catalyst for me. For one...as a VE for both ARRL ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) and W5YI ([www.w5yi.org](http://www.w5yi.org)) I decided to help out at the San Francisco cram class produced by the Bay Area Educational Amateur Radio Society ([www.baears.com](http://www.baears.com)). This is Ross Peterson's (WB6ZBU) group. I was already running on fumes from a couple of previous late night activities, so the 6:30am breakfast time in San Francisco pushed me a bit. On the drive to San Francisco, I was listening to the CD that Gordon West includes with his Extra Upgrade study book. It is kind of corny, but it did get me excited. I had breakfast with the group and then headed over to the Holiday Inn on Van Ness. I managed to find parking a few blocks away...only to find out later that the "Parking Lot FULL" sign

at the hotel wasn't accurate and was being used to help prevent the general public from parking there. <sigh> There was a last minute venue change, so I think we lost a few prospects. But I believe we still had around 60 or 70 participants. A ham cram session is different from a basic license session in that you spend the day studying only the correct answers in the question pool in 45 minute sections. Then at the end of the day, you take the test. The pass rate is pretty high! I used this technique for both my technician and my general class licenses. The group is great to work with and I had a lot of fun. I quickly memorized my VE# after filling it in, along with name and call sign, on several forms. It's a good feeling to give back to the ham community as a VE. The advantage of being an extra class is that you can grade for ANY class license. As a general, I can only grade technician class tests. There's yet another incentive for me to upgrade...along with not being limited to certain frequencies on the bands.

Well...I hadn't really been actively studying for the extra class, but I figured that while I was there, I really should take the test. So when the opportunity came up, I went ahead and took the exam. ARGH! I missed passing by THREE questions! That was my next catalyst. I was SO close! It was time to get studying and see if I could get some traction.



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## Special points of interest:

- [McMurdo Station](#)
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[NOTE: The secret phrase for a free raffle ticket at the next SBARA meeting is "Question Pool." Write this phrase down on a piece of paper and hand it in at the raffle table for a free ticket. Limit one ticket per person.] Old habits die hard. Concentrating on my studies has been a challenge since I was a kid. I kind of equate the behavior to walking my dog. He is focused on walking...and sniffing every other plant...but then...SQUIRREL! Total distraction.

There are many ways to study for the various classes of amateur radio tests. You will find that every ham may have a different suggestion as to what technique worked best for them. But like many things in life, their technique may not be the best for YOU! There are a variety of study books from ARRL and Gordon West, CDs, basic question pool itself (available online), as well as online resources. What I have been using...and managing to do a little bit every evening...is Ham Test Online at: [www.hamradiolicenseexam.com](http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com). There are specific topics that you can review, practice tests that you can take, and a study feature. What I like about the Study feature is that it takes you through the question pool, but you have options to eliminate half of the answers to help you make your

choice, show the answer, skip the subject for now, or drill down into the subject to study it more thoroughly. The other feature I like is that it is adaptive in that it will re-display questions that you have previously missed and continue to do so until you consistently answer them correctly. Lastly...you can get FREE access if you are a VE! I plan to help out at the next VE session at Hurricane Electric on February 9th, so maybe I'll give the test another shot. But since I'm studying so consistently, my goal is to at least pass it before June 30th...when the question pool changes.

If you are interested in becoming a VE, I found it easiest to go through W5YI and then that credential allowed me to get a reciprocal badge from ARRL. ARRL has an open book test that I found awkward because I couldn't find the answers to some questions...anywhere. Weird.

73!

Steve KG6HJU

#### Seeking Amateur Radio Volunteers for 2016 FFBC Primavera Century

The Fremont Freewheelers Bicycle Club (FFBC) sponsored 2016 Primavera Century is only two months away on Sunday, April 17th. The organized ride includes five routes:

- **Century:** 100 miles, 5,500' ascent
- **85 mile Option:** 85 miles, 4,300' ascent
- **Metric Century:** 100K, 63 miles, 3,800' ascent
- **Calaveras Loop:** 65K, 2,100' ascent

**Fun Ride:** 25 miles, mostly flat, 464' ascent

The Primavera Century has a reputation of being a very beautiful ride as well as a very well supported ride. Amateur Radio volunteers are needed to provide communications while stationed at Mission San Jose High School (start/finish), rest stops along the routes, or mobile as a standalone or ride-along SAG (Support & Gear). This is a great way to exercise your radio skills while supporting this popular organized bicycle ride. There are already 900 riders registered, so it is expected to sell out again this year.

There are half-day and full-day shifts available. You will receive a free t-shirt and other goodies.

Please contact Tony Flusche (AB6BR), radio operator coordinator, for more details at: [tony.f@comcast.net](mailto:tony.f@comcast.net)

# SBARA BOARD MEMBERS 2016

## Officers

|                |                 |        |
|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| President      | Steve Wilson    | KG6HJU |
| Vice President | Deborah Patten  | AG6HJ  |
| Treasurer      | Jim Ritari      | N6DA   |
| Secretary      | Stephen Rishton | AG6TT  |

## Appointees:

|                       |                    |        |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|
| KU6S Trustee          | Don Amyx           | N6DA   |
| Martin Cooper         | Compliance Manager | KD6YAM |
| Membership Chairman   | J J Lerma          | NW6J   |
| Newsletter Editor     | Bill Artelt        | WB9YVM |
| Photographer          | J J Lerma          | NW6J   |
| Quarter Master        | Greg Miller        | WY6P   |
| Web Master            | Umesh Ghodke       | K6VUG  |
| Circulation Manager   | Tammy Dunbar       | KG6HJI |
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| Program Facilitator   | Deborah Patten     | AG6HJ  |
| Board Member at Large | AI Rendon          | WT6K   |
| Board Member at Large | Bernhard Hailer    | AE6YN  |

## Programs for our Membership

February - Packet by Bernhard Hailer

March - Wake Atoll DXpedition by John Miller

April- RF Interference by Mike Fong

## Rapid Deployment Go Kit

Go Kits are different depending on the incident. There is a universal rapid deployment kit for those times when the incident is a true unplanned emergency.

The basic kit is as follows;

Preprogrammed Dual Band Hand Held Radio

Radio Programming Guide

Mag-Mount Antenna

Earphone

Paper and Pencil

ID Card and Cash

Extra batteries

Appropriate Clothing

Food and Water

This will get you on your way along with a pocket of Boy Scout stuff. If it's not all together take the list and place it by your ham station so you do not forget to check it off when you leave the house. The next best thing to bring is a mobile radio, antenna and a cigarette lighter plug. You may need the higher power due to the repeaters being down or have to operate from a different vehicle or serve as a base station with a power source.

As always take care of your family first. Please use good operating practices LISTEN to the net control station. Do not transmit unless requested, use discipline and do not babble, spread rumors, or transmit hearsay. Work with confirmed facts! Remember the radio is on in the EOC everyone is listening.

After the initial deployment additional equipment and radio operators can be added to the incident as it expands. Infrastructure fails, plan on operating without the use of repeaters and external power in the field and at home. You may have noticed I did not mention HF. Most disasters are local incidents and VHF /UHF work just fine for local incidents. My opinion is to relay messages to a comfortable well equipped home station with good antennas for the long haul communications.

### Have you seen the new SBARA Website?

[SBARA.ORG](http://SBARA.ORG) has a new look and some updated content. Navigation follows the known style - information about the club can be accessed via the (black) menu bar at the top and the navigation bar on the left links to various topics of interest to the club. The Contact Us page provides easy access any of the board members and activity chairs, when you have a question or would like something to be included, changed and if a link is not working. The new layout is mobile friendly, making it easier to browse the website on tablet sized and smart phone sized mobile devices. I hope you enjoy the new website.

Web Master

Umesh Ghodke K6VUG



P. O. Box 8401 Fremont, CA. 94537-8401

## South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S

[Toggle Navigation](#)

Club Meeting is on  
February 12th

Welcome to SBARA !

### IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)  
[www.colpage.org](http://www.colpage.org)  
[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)  
[www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)  
[www.twit.tv/hn](http://www.twit.tv/hn)  
[www.dxspots.com](http://www.dxspots.com)

Ham Radio  
Public Outreach KC4USV McMurdo, Antarctica.  
Tri-band, 7 element Yagi. Read all about it here:  
<https://scripps.ucsd.edu/centers/>

McMurdo Station is a U.S. Antarctic research center on the south tip of Ross Island, which is in the New Zealand-claimed Ross Dependency on the shore of McMurdo Sound in Antarctica.



Amateur radio or ham radio call signs are unique identifiers for licensed operators in Antarctica. Call signs are regulated internationally by the ITU as well as nationally by governing bodies within each country who may have nationals operating in Antarctica. Call signs may also be issued by a local Antarctic authority (i.e. base commander) who chooses from a block reserved by their national body for that purpose.<sup>[4]</sup> The Antarctic Treaty signed on December 1, 1959 (and entered into force on June 23, 1961), established the legal framework for the management of Antarctica, including allocation of amateur call signs.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

The International Telecommunications Union does not assign call letter blocks to Antarctica<sup>[5]</sup> since there is no single government there which can send delegates to ITU conferences. However, some individual countries reserve Antarctic prefixes or call letters from within their own call letter blocks as per this table.<sup>[6]</sup> In some cases the assignment of call letters is made locally at an Antarctic base and the relevant national body is notified.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

SBARA Membership meeting Friday, February 12th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Court (off of Warm Springs Blvd), Fremont

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for the pre-meeting dinner at; Ho Chow Restaurant, 47966 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont. (510) 657-0683



## Nets and other Club Information

### The Slow CW Net

Every Thursday (on 144.230 MHz) and Sunday (on 7.057 MHz +/- 3 KHz) night at 7:30 pm.

You need an "all-mode" transceiver in order to participate in this net.. The net now has its own email address. Please contact us here: : "SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at google-groups.com>

—... —— Bernhard AE6YN

### Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net takes place every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net.

—... —— Bernhard AE6YN